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2 April 1957

USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Selection of Areas Considered Most Feasible
for Unconventional Warfare Purposes**

BACKGROUND

At the present time there exists considerable diversity of opinion as to what actually constitutes an unconventional warfare area. A basic factor which contributes to the lack of standardization is the fact that Unconventional Warfare as a field actually embraces three distinct and different activities - Guerrilla warfare, Subversion and Evasion and Escape. Within the three services differences in composition and mission have led to development of unilateral concepts for specific aspects of Unconventional Warfare which are of major concern to each respective service.

The Department of the Army with primacy of interest in Guerrilla Warfare has concentrated on plans for the development of Special Force components designed to be employed in enemy areas to carry out UW missions. Primary mission is Guerrilla Warfare and the recruiting organizing and employing of indigenous forces. The end objective is to establish maximum possible control of indigenous areas. Secondary mission will be to develop a capability to support evasion and escape activities.

The Department of the Air Force with primacy of interest in Evasion and Escape has concentrated on plans, procedures and support designed to deny enemy aircraft to the enemy and to accomplish eventual recovery of such personnel.

The Department of the Navy also with a major interest in Evasion and Escape has proceeded along lines similar to the USAF.

This Memorandum, drafted by AFUIN, has been coordinated and informally approved by Col. Dixon, Chief of the UW Division for the Army and by [REDACTED]. This Memorandum will constitute the written guidance or frame of reference when the requirement for the feasibility study is given to ORU/GR.

Through the unified commands the respective service components have placed upon [REDACTED] requirements [REDACTED] to perform various types of missions [REDACTED]

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Although it is evident that all of the various UW activities discussed above must begin with the selection and designation of specific geographical areas, the basic differences in UW objectives of the individual services have resulted in differences in criteria on which area selection has been made.

PURPOSE

The purpose of obtaining a feasibility study of all countries of interest is to achieve, whenever possible, standardization and compatibility of area selection to meet the UW needs of the respective services. It has been determined that two primary types of areas are required. These are:

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It is recognized that accomplishment of a feasibility study to establish a coordinated list of recommended areas of the two types indicated above is only the first step of a series of actions which will be required.

Subsequent actions, not in order of priority, are as follows:

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a. Coordinated dissemination of the results of the study and appropriate explanation to operational military commands and [redacted] staff elements.

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b. Service action to obtain and disseminate further intelligence on specific areas accepted for use. [redacted]

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[redacted] It is possible that this action may also be more appropriate for joint [redacted] military effort.

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c. Alignment of service plans to utilize most feasible areas.

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d. Selection and analysis of additional UW operational areas required for expansion and full utilization of initial base areas.

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e. Review and re-alignment of Unified Command requirements placed on [redacted] to take maximum advantage of possible areas. This action should be accomplished by the Unified Commands.

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f. Re-examination of [redacted] acceptance of Unified Command requirements [redacted]

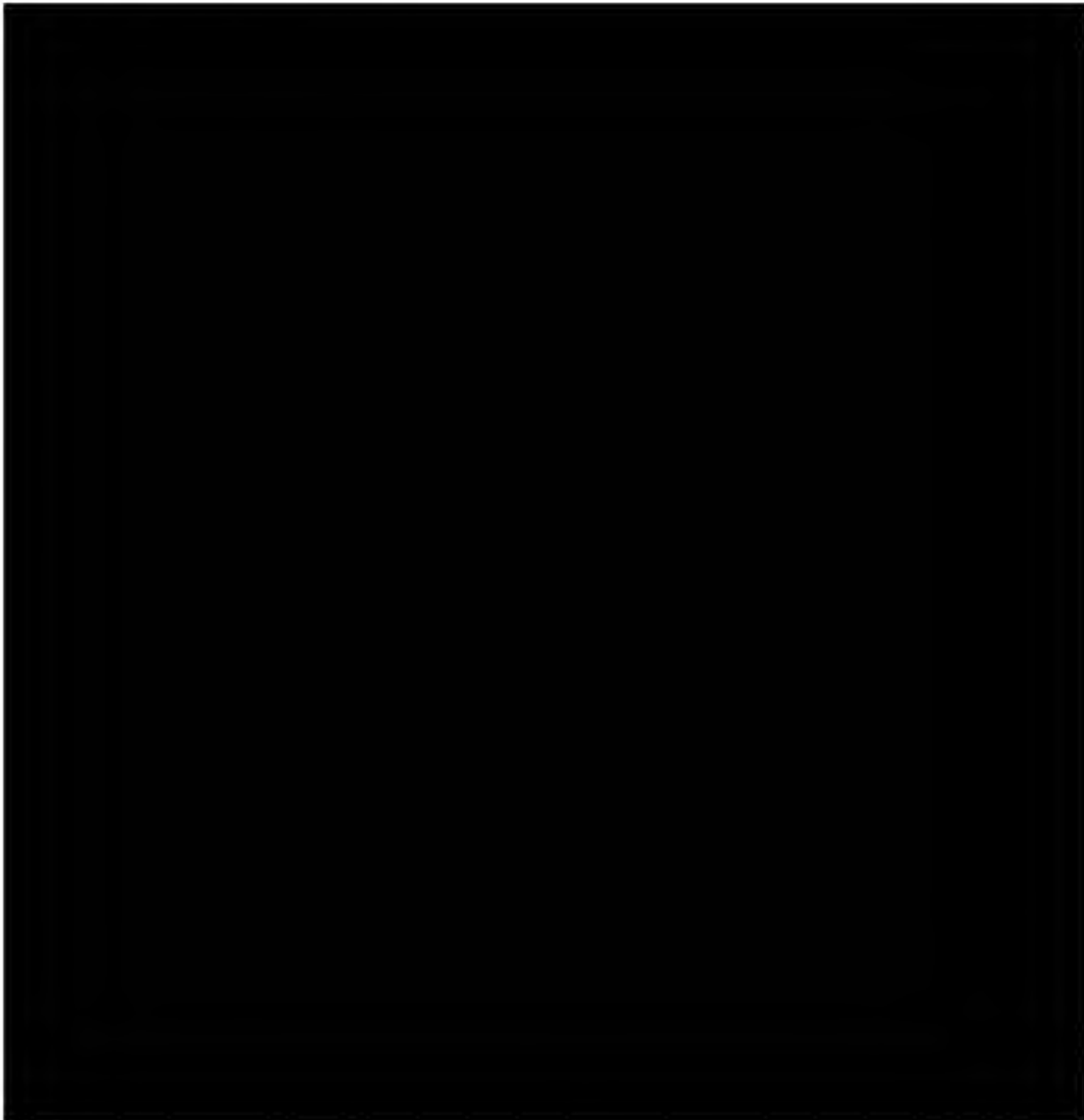
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It is emphasized that it is impractical to take operational factors into consideration during the initial feasibility study. In order to establish a common basis from which the subsequent actions indicated above can develop in a logical and orderly manner it is first necessary to accomplish a preliminary feasibility study to determine which areas are the most suitable for US purposes.

Criteria for Area Selection.

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